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March 26, 2009

Esteemed Judiciary Members
Representative Demetrios Giannaros
Hartford, Connecticut

Re: HR6532 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
FOR BRINGING ACTION FOR DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL
ASSAULT OF A MINOR*

Thank you all most appreciatively for granting this hearing.

My beloved's abuse by Dr. Reardon occurred when he was about ten years old – he was recovering from a hand injury, and was “recruited” into a growth study at St. Francis Hospital. His mother, a private duty nurse there, was perhaps “flattered” that her son had been chosen by such a prominent physician, and undoubtedly felt he would be well-treated by him. That was very far from the case.

My husband hid the abuse from even me, until the early 1990s, when the matter became public. I began to understand his lack of trust in authority figures, and of the medical profession. We resumed life as we knew it, though much had changed, and with each notice of Dr. Reardon in the media, the more raw his emotions became.

When the cache of film was found in 2007, my husband did something I will forever be proud of – though reeling with emotional distress, he went to the West Hartford Police Department and discussed the matter with their detectives. It was a bold action, for one so distrustful. The period of time following the media's disclosure was extremely painful. Depression, and its

myriad symptoms occurred – he still feels unable to seek treatment, though the psychiatrist (offered by St. Francis Hospital) with whom I had several phone chats, helped me to cope a bit during this critical space in time.

The point is this: Dr. Reardon caused irreparable harm to many; years after his death he continues to haunt, not just the victims, but their families, as well. We've suffered with our beloveds, emotionally, and financially. Years do not diminish the pain, and age does make it more difficult to spring back from all of these punches to our minds and hearts. Indeed, we are quite fragile.

You can help by giving us the same chance to seek restitution as those who are younger. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time, and I'll be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Very truly yours,

Peri H. Pogson
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